

which the Jordan washes down into the waters of the sea, are destroyed. Hence arises the unnatural buoyancy and the intolerable nausea to taste and touch, which raise to the highest pitch the contrast between its clear, bitter waves, and the soft, fresh, turbid stream of its parent river. Strewn along its desolate margin lie the most striking memorials of this last conflict of life and death; trunks and branches of trees, torn down from the thickets of the river-jungle by the violence of the Jordan, thrust out into the sea, and thrown up again by its waves, dead and barren as itself.

The specific gravity of the water of the Dead Sea ranges from 1172 to 1227. While sea-water only contains 30 parts of salt in the 1000 parts, that of the Dead Sea contains no less than 250.

The length of this curious inland basin is 40 miles; its average breadth 9 miles. It is situated in lat.  $31^{\circ} 10'$  to  $31^{\circ} 47' N.$ , and long.  $35^{\circ}$  to  $36^{\circ} E.$ ]

#### AFRICA.

On the African continent we notice first the great *Lake Tchad*, whose shores



FIG. 203.—LAKE TCHAD (AFRICA).

have been so thoroughly explored by Dr. Barth. It is an immense, marshy, and somewhat shallow lagoon, whose ill-defined shores change with the seasons of the